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**Claims**

1. A method of operating an electronic device, in particular a mobile telephone, comprising the steps of:

- 5    - inputting a request for a specific function or a group of specific functions of the device, the request consists of at least a string of characters selected by a user,  
- comparing the characters of the string with characters of a randomly generated code string, and  
10   - performing the specific function or one of the group of specific functions if the string input by the user matches at least partly.

15   2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the request comprises a start sequence leading the string of characters to activate a special operation mode for triggering specific functions.

20   3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the specific function or one of the specific functions is performed to indicate that one of the characters of the string input by the user matches a character of the code string.

25   4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that more than one of the group of specific functions are performed in case that more than one of the characters of the string input by the user match respective ones of the characters of the code string.

30   5. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that another specific function is performed in case that the string input by the user matches the code string.

35   6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the code string is changed by randomly generating a new code string after performing the specific function or functions if all of the characters of the string input by the user match the characters of the code string.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the code string is changed by randomly generating a new code string at certain intervals.

TOKUSO

- 1        8. The method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the interval of  
changing the code string is randomly determined after each change of the  
code string.
- 5        9. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the request is  
input by means of a keypad.
- 10      10. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the request is  
input by selecting characters from a list displayed on a display particularly  
by means of turn-push-button.
- 15      11. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the request is  
input via an air interface.
12. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the request  
comprises a terminating character indicating the end of the string of charac-  
ters input by a user.

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